

CGC VALIANT (WMEC 621)

21 May—29 June 2012

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Spring/Summer Patrol Newsletter 2012



**The adventures of the most
VALIANT crew in the fleet!**

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Transfer Season

Every summer, Coast Guardsmen around the country (and around the world) transfer as tours end and our shipmates move to their new units.

During the most recent inport period, we said goodbye to some of our own shipmates in Miami with VALIANT's impending homeport shift to NAVSTA Mayport in Jacksonville, FL



Above: Members of the Operations Department render sharp salutes during the playing of the National Anthem at the start of the ceremony.

On May 11th, VALIANT held a retirement ceremony for Chief Petty Officer Jose Tabar, who decided to hang up his uniform after 20 years of dedicated service in the Coast Guard. In attendance were shipmates from almost every unit this Quartermaster turned Boatswain's Mate served with. Chief Tabar, good luck, you will be greatly missed. Fair winds and Following Seas!

Above Right: Commanding Officer, Commander Dettleff, presents Chief Petty Officer Tabar with a Commendation Medal for his contributions to VALIANT as the Deck Chief Boatswain's Mate from July 2010 to May 2012.

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Senior Chief Petty Officer Buckley was joined by his wife, Alma, and their two children for his departure and advancement ceremony.

Congratulations, Senior!



Commanding Officer, Commander Dettleff, presents Lieutenant Commander Heyward Silcox, with his departure award for his service as Executive Officer from June 2010 to May 2012. Welcome Aboard— Lieutenant Commander Tim Sommella!

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Adios Miami!

VALIANT got underway the evening of May 21st from Coast Guard Base Miami Beach. This patrol **VALIANT** worked for Joint Inter-Agency Task Force South (JIATF-S) enforcing maritime laws and treaties to thwart the efforts of drug trafficking organizations attempting to move illicit narcotics throughout the Caribbean, and ultimately destined for U.S. streets. **VALIANT** was ably assisted this patrol by an embarked MH-65D helicopter crew from Helicopter Interdiction Tactical Squadron (HITRON), based in our future homeport of Jacksonville, FL.

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Boatswain's Mate Chief Petty Officer Purinton marked a significant moment in his Coast Guard career this patrol with his advancement from First Class Petty Officer to Chief Petty Officer.

Above: Chief Purinton stands among fellow VALIANT current and past chiefs (From left to right: Chief Petty Officer Waguespack, Lyons, Torrey, Purinton, Matos, Carney)

Right: Commanding Officer, Commander Dettleff, presents Chief Petty Officer Purinton with his anchors on the flight deck.



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Standing a Taut Watch

Although standing watch is a serious matter, watch standers still find ways to lighten the mood.

Left: Electronics Technician Second Class Hanson prepares for small boat checks.

Below: Seaman Lambert maintains a keen eye on the horizon for any suspicious vessels while standing Lookout Watch on the flying bridge.



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Engineer on the Bridge

Damage Control Assistant, Ensign Mueller, took a break from watch in the engine room to break-in as Underway Officer of the Deck—a key qualification in his pursuit of future patrol boat command afloat.

Above: Ensign Mueller has the Conn and is joined by the rest of the bridge team; Deck: Ensign Canvin, Quartermaster of the Watch; Storekeeper First Class Thomas, and Helmsman: Seaman Torres.

Right: Ensign Mueller does not let a little blue tape stop him! He uses creative means to take a bearing with the alidade when the bridge wing was blocked off for deck resurfacing in preparation for the Change of Command.



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Busted

In the early morning hours of May 31st, VALIANT interdicted a go-fast vessel carrying bales of cocaine off the coast of Nicaragua. The embarked helicopter fired warning shots and ultimately disabling fire to the vessel's outboard engines upon their refusal to requests to stop the vessel. With the assistance of Nicaraguan Navy vessels, VALIANT recovered 43 bales over the next few days, totaling over \$32.5 million of cocaine.

Above: VALIANT's crew poses with the bales and the MH-65D Dolphin helicopter on the flight deck. The interdicted go-fast, driven by VALIANT crewmembers, can be seen in the background alongside the cutter.

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Left: The small boat crew passes recovered bales to the cutter on the morning of May 31.

Below: Recently reported aboard Maritime Enforcement Specialist Second Class Stieren and Executive Officer, Lieutenant Commander Sommella, use a Narcotics Identification Kit (NIK) to confirm the bales are carrying cocaine.



Below: All recovered bales stacked on the flight deck. VALIANT interdicted 43 bales with a street value of \$32.5 million dollars.



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Left: Boatswain's Mate Second Class Dinu excitedly returns the small boat to the cutter with the recovered cocaine bales.

Below: Ensign Neuhardt attempts to drive the interdicted go-fast vessel with Electronics Technician Third Class Villanueva acting as boat crew. VALIANT kept the go-fast in tow for several days after the interdiction.



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Left: Maritime Enforcement Specialists Second Class Stieren and Third Class Padilla demonstrate just how tactical they can be while guarding the smugglers from the go-fast chase on the fantail.

Right: Commanding Officer, Commander Dettleff, recognizes Aviation Maintenance Technician Third Class Fischer at quarters following the go-fast chase. Third Class Petty Officer Fischer. Helicopter Interdiction Tactical Squadron (HITRON) based out of Jacksonville, Florida, was the marksman who fired the shot that disabled the vessel and enabled VALIANT to interdict the contraband.



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Port Call

VALIANT's first port call was in the beautiful island of Grand Cayman. The crew enjoyed white sand beaches, great food, and autographs from Guy Harvey. The Morale Committee organized a trip to Stingray City, where crewmembers pet and fed wild Stingrays and snorkeled with tropical fish over a colorful reef.

Above: members of the crew meet the "locals"

Right: Ensign Neuhardt enjoys some sun on the boat ride to Stingray City





On Call

While working on the bridge fixing the radars, Electronics Technician Third Class Villanueva heard a call over the radio from a nearby disabled fishing vessel. As one of VALIANT's Spanish translators, Petty Officer Villanueva, quickly interpreted the vessel's request for food and water. After further exchanges with the vessel, it was determined that one of the men onboard was suffering from "the bends" from a diving accident. VALIANT quickly sprung to action, launching the cutter small boat to deliver bags of rice, cases of water, and boxes of crackers. VALIANT brought the sick man onboard for emergency MEDEVAC with VALIANT's embarked helicopter. Once off VALIANT's decks, the helicopter flew to the nearest hyperbaric chamber in Nicaragua, where the victim received life-saving treatment. The disabled vessel was towed back to Nicaragua by a fellow fishing vessel. Bravo Zulu to Petty Officer Villanueva for literally answering the call of duty and ultimately saving a man's life!

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Helo Ops

Special Thanks to the aircrew of CG 6525! The aviation detachment (AVDET) integrated well with the crew and was a great asset to have onboard this patrol. Every type of evolution was encountered, including a go-fast chase, medical evacuation (MEDEVAC), search patterns and training.

Left: The Tiedown crew hooks up a load of cargo to the helicopter as it hovers five feet above the flight deck as part of Vertical Replenishment (VERTREP) training

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Above: VALIANT conducts Helicopter In-Flight Refueling (HIFR) by attaching the fuel hose to the hoisting cable on the helicopter. VALIANT was able to qualify four Tie-Down crewmembers, two Landing Signals Officers, and one Helicopter Control Officer this patrol.

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How many ensigns does it take to launch the small boat?

Above: Four ensigns "supervise" the lowering of the cutter small boat into the water.

Left: The small boat takes station alongside VALIANT in anticipation of detainee and contraband transfer with USS ELROD



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Avalanche

Food Service Specialist Third Class Woitt gets buried in boxes while searching for menu items in the reefer.



Keeping Cool

Damage Controlman Second Class Spelz stays well hydrated during a fresh water wash down in the hot sun of the Caribbean.

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A Little Overdone -
The Chiefs Mess hosted
“Pizza Night” one
Saturday underway...this
is their attempt at
Hawaiian pizza



Working Off the Pizza
Seaman Sedberry and
Seaman Everett try out
VALIANT's new exercise
bikes provided by the
generous support of the
Coast Guard Foundation,
a national not for profit,
with the mission to
assist service members.
Each year, the Coast
Guard Foundation
provides support to
operational units,
including funding for
fitness and other morale
equipment.



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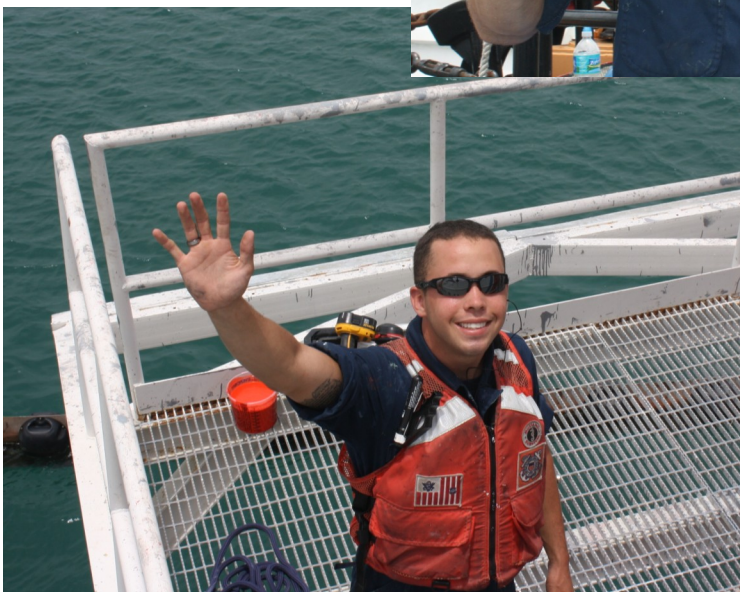


Guantanamo Bay (GTMO), Work and Play
VALIANT's final port call was in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. For some, this meant balancing intense workouts at the gym and sports fields with American fast food. We also welcomed out newest shipmates, Boatswain's Mate First Class Goodwin, Storekeeper First Class Chapman, and Seaman Cisneros.

For the Deck and Operations Departments, the first day of the port call was spent knocking out exterior maintenance projects to smarten the cutter's appearance for the Change of Command ceremony in July. More work in GTMO means less in Miami Beach!



Above: Seaman Werner
listens to music while working on the forecabin.



Left: Seaman Dodd waves from the paint float while touching up the racing stripe on the port side of the hull.

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Crane-assisted helo “flight” from flight deck to flat bed

While conducting flight operations in rough seas, the helicopter experienced an over torque on the gear box during take-off from the flight deck. This grounded the aircraft on the cutter for several days until it could be craned off in Guantanamo Bay. The helicopter was repaired quickly during the port call and was observed conducting a test flight as VALIANT headed outbound to sea, en route Miami Beach!



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Golf Tournament

While in Guantanamo Bay, the Morale Committee supported a golf tournament.

Above Left: Chief Machinery Technician Carney sends the ball down the hill to the green.
Above Right: Chief Warrant Officer Torrey drives the golf cart for the Chief Petty Officer team.

Right: The Officer of the Deck break-in, Ensign Copenig, along with VALIANT's Corpsman, Petty Officer McArdle, pay the Captain, Commander Dettleff, a visit to inform him of an injured crewmember. Petty Officer Padilla will be back on the basketball court in a few days!



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Above: Participants from several teams gather after the golf tournament for some laughs and drinks.

Right: Electronics Technician Second Class Hanson poses with Maritime Enforcement Specialist Second Class Dings for his last night in GTMO with his VALIANT shipmates.



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Final Return

On June 29th, VALIANT returned to its homeport of Miami Beach for the final time. It was a busy, exciting, and successful patrol for all. In August, VALIANT will shift homeport to Naval Station Mayport in Jacksonville, FL.

Fair Winds and Following Seas to all departing crewmembers who served their last patrol aboard the mighty VALIANT. We wish you all the best!

Credits

BELL, TIMOTHY G.	MK2	LAMBERT, JOSEPH M.	SN
BEILER, MICHAEL J.	AET3	LANGSTON, DANIEL G.	LTJG
BIXLER, ROBERT A.	LT	LEE, DAVID J.	ENS
BROWN, CODY L.	LT	LEE, JAMEL D.	EM2
BRUMMER, JUSTIN W.	OS3	LINSTEDT, MICHAEL L.	FN
CANVIN, CHRISTINA G.	ENS	LITTON, MARK B.	FN
CARNEY, RICHARD V.	MKC	LYONS, STEPHEN W.	FSC
CASTIBLANCO, JONATHAN S.	SN	MAGEE, ERIC F.	SN
CATO, TIMOTHY P.	SN	MARTIN, VINCENT D.	AMT2
CHAPMAN, AKANE A.	SK1	MILLS, MARY K.	ENS
CISNEROS, JORGE L.	SN	MATOS, JUAN A.	EMC
COLUDROVICH, SHOWN A.	EM3	MATHIS, CHARLES R.	LT
COLVIN, MATTHEW C.	FN	MCARDLE, RYAN M.	HS2
COPENING, MEGAN D.	ENS	MELENDEZ, ANGEL	FS2
CRAWFORD, DANIEL S.	SN	MERCADO, LUIS M.	IT2
CURTIS, BENJAMIN M.	SN	MUELLER, TIMOTHY E.	ENS
DANIELS, CHRIS M.	BM3	NEUHARDT, NATHAN D.	ENS
DAVIS, ROBERT A.	IT1	NGUYEN, DEREK A.	FS3
DEASON, DARREN L.	EM3	NORTON, CHRISTOPHER J.	SN
DETTLEFF, JOHN C.	CDR	PADILLA, GABRIEL E.	ME3
DINGS, PATRICK R.	ME3	PASCUCCI, NICHOLAS J.	YN1
DINU, GIGEL	BM2	PILAND, CHARLES G.	BMC
DODD, NATHAN R.	SN	PINTO, EDWIN J.	BM2
EVERETT, SAMUEL C.	SN	PLEISS, PAUL B.	OS1
FISCHER, BRADLEY A.	AMT3	PULK, KYLE R.	GM1
GAUDIOSO, DIEGO A.	MK2	PURINTON, NATHAN A.	BMC
GOAD, ADAM C.	MK1	RISE, LELAND L.	MK3
GOMEZ, JORGE A.	BM2	RIVERA, JAVIER R.	MK2
GOODWIN, SEAN C.	BM1	RIZO, HENRY J.	EM3
HAGUE, JAMES L.	FS1	RODRIGUEZ, CARLOS H.	DC1
HANSON, RYAN H.	ET2	ROMERO, ALEJANDRO J.	SN
HAZZARD, ERIC S.	MK3	SAATHOFF, MARK A.	FN
HENDRICKS, SCOTTY L.	OS1	SCOTT, STEVEN J.	OS3
JENKINS, JAMES N.	FN	SEDBERRY, NICHOLAS F.	SN
JONES, EDWARD H.	EMC	SHADRICK, KIRK C.	LT
KENNERLEY, GREGORY M.	CADET	SHVEDA, SARAH K.	ENS

Credits (cont.)

SILCOX, JAMES H.	LCDR
SOMMELLA, TIMOTHY C.	LCDR
SPELZ, JACKIE G.	DC2
STALNAKER, TAYLOR J.	SN
STIEREN, GRADY C.	ME2
TANNER, MICHAEL L.	BMC
THOMAS, DYLAN R.	SN
THOMAS, ROBERT J.	SK1
TORRES, EDWIN A.	SN
TORREY, BRENT E.	CWO
VANVALKENBURG, CHRISTOPHER	SK3
VILLANUEVA, JORGE A.	ET3
VOGEL, JESSICA A.	LTJG
WAGUESPACK, TROY E.	MKC
WARD, EVAN M.	BM3
WELKER, THOMAS J.	SN
WERNER, BLAKE A.	SN
WILLARD, THOMAS R.	ET1
WOITT, STEVEN G.	FS3

The crew of VALIANT would like to extend our appreciation to all of our family and friends who provide support and encouragement everyday, no matter how close or far away we sail.



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